

**Bianca, Pam**

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**From:** Elaine <elaine@yardapes.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 4:35 PM  
**To:** LABTestimony  
**Subject:** SB984

To Whom It May Concern:

Shayne Newman, President of YardApes, Inc., 18 Aspetuck Ridge Road, New Milford CT is currently traveling on business and asked that I bring this matter to your attention on his behalf.

YardApes, Inc. is very much concerned about the Unionization of Agricultural Workers, SB No. 984.

While we understand the motivation behind unionization of ag employees, there are several issues that we feel need to be addressed:

*First* of all, profitability of farms is plummeting, it is down almost 400 percent from 2007 to 2013 (USDA census)

*Secondly*, many forms of commodity agriculture some of which are field corn, soybeans, wheat, tobacco, and dairy are currently subsidized. By adding an additional expense, this will only increase the amount of subsidies required to keep businesses solvent.

*Lastly*, other surrounding states aren't unionized, therefore this places Connecticut agriculture at a huge disadvantage.

Thank you for your time, please feel free to contact us in regards to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Elaine Lord*

For Shayne Newman  
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